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Start your engines

The Minden Experience kicked off their long weekend with a full course of eager kids hitting the raceway, ready for a full summer ahead.
/TIM YANO staff photgrapher

AH council shops around land for affordable housing

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Four sites in Algonquin Highlands have been eyeballed as parcels that may possibly assist with the township's housing availability.

The township was requested by Haliburton County to provide a list of municipally-owned land that could potentially support the development of multi-unit residential housing.

This was part of a project proposed by the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus to establish a public-private partnership to reduce waitlist times for affordable housing.

Four prospective land parcels in Algonquin Highlands have been identified as suitable for new single detached housing locations.

Two sites are on Highway 118. One 1.5 acres and has a frontage of 200 feet and the other 6.5 acres in size and has 300 feet of frontage.

There's a one acre space for a single detached dwelling on Chelsea Lane that has 150 feet of frontage. And there's a little more than five acres in a parcel on Little Hawk Lake Road with 880 feet of frontage that could carry an address.

see COUNCIL page 8

Connecting producers with visitors through agri-tourism

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Grow it and they will come.

Given the proper support by community decision-makers, of course.

Trent University research indicates there is a strong desire in the Haliburton County community for a tourism industry component based on agriculture.

Sadie Snell, a student at the university's School of the Environment, published findings of research carried out under the umbrella of U-Links Centre for Community-based Research for the Apple Tree Identification Project Haliburton. The report is entitled *Harvest Haliburton: Unveiling Haliburton's Bounty Through Agri-Tourism.*

Under the supervision of Professor Susan Wurtele, Snell identified a strong community interest and untapped potential for the development of agri-tourism in the area.

She said project participants and industry interview subjects showed a curiosity and enthusiasm for another facet of local agriculture and her research. Many came prepared with a strong sense of key ideas related to agri-tourism, she said.

"Participants described organized farm tours as an appealing form of agri-tourism because the facilitate direct connection between producers and tourists and allow tourists to experience multiple aspects of Haliburton County," she wrote.

"The desire to provide farm tours can be linked to other themes including participants' desire to share their knowledge through workshops and demonstrations, a passion for quality food and the environment, and a sense of local pride and uniqueness of place."

There is a desire to engage in coordinated events to share local knowledge and contribute to the growth of the community and that of the tourism and agriculture industries.

Such recent examples as the Apple Tree Identification Project's Apple Blossom Tour last year and a series of 2012 farm tours organized by SIRCH Community Services.

"(The findings) also highlight the importance of addressing key gaps in community collaboration, considering farmer perspectives and hesitations, addressing regulatory barriers, and the need for municipal support in order to provide security for the agricultural sector and facilitate the expansion of agri-tourism activities," Snell wrote in a report on her research.

Her research delved into the availability of existing marketing resources, local geographical attributes and their impacts on agriculture, risks, and access to farm services.

Research participants said there was a need for more political support in agri-tourism development, particularly at the municipal level. There was indication that municipal support for agriculture was inconsistent and that the upper tier highlights agriculture in tourism promotional campaigns but doesn't foster its success.

"It was felt that, in order to get producers interested in expanding agri-tourism, there needs to be demonstrated and reliable municipal support for agriculture in the form of public recognition and promotion of agriculture and the clear consideration of the agricultural sector in policy decision-making," Snell wrote in her findings.

A lack of municipal acknowledgement means fewer avenues by which producers can advocate for their needs. And smaller-scale producers face additional barrier to having their voices heard "as they may not be counted statistically as farmer," she said.

"There was also a sense that policy-makers lack understanding of the reality of the scale and geography of farming in the region."

Snell said participants indicated the most significant barrier to agri-tourism's development is stumbling blocks toward collaboration among various industry stakeholders. There is a general lack of communication between organizations and community groups invested in the industry.

"The agricultural sector was described as fragmented and siloed with many independent small producers lacking connection to other producers or other types of agriculture and therefore being without a strong support system," she wrote.

"Addressing this lack of community connection was seen as essential for strengthening the agricultural sector, as well as for increasing producer awareness and engagement in agri-tourism."

Research participants illustrated that producers were eager to share experiences and knowledge of such skillsets as cheese-making, sheep shearing, and soil analysis and plant biology, beekeeping, maple syrup production, and even forestry.

Including such facets in a tourism forum would broaden the public's understanding of agriculture.

"Several participants expressed an interest in sharing their farm or organization's story with others," she wrote. "And several (participants) were particularly passionate about sharing agricultural knowledge with young people.

"In addition to engaging with visiting tourists, participants were eager to share knowledge about farming in Haliburton's unique geography with local community members."

Roadside Brush Collection Program
Zone 3 Pickup information:
If you live within this zone, please place your brush on the roadside for collection by 7:00 am, Monday May 26th. Pickup is available on County and Township roads only.
To view the pickup zones, visit: https://haliburtoncounty.ca/brushcollection
This program is available to properties that are currently on year-round, municipally maintained roads. To check eligibility, residents are encouraged to review the map and collection schedule at the website below.
More Info:
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Collection runs from May 12-June 13
Visit our website for FAQs
Haliburton Highlands
Township of Minden Hills

Cell gap project on pace to end July 2026

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

The map of eastern Ontario will appear when the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) is finished closing the gaps between cellphone towers.

Private and government money is being used for EORN's Cell Gap Project to improve communications in the region.

It isn't a small task that a team of 12 people have undertaken.

The project includes 258 new sites for cellphone towers. There are 311 sites that at one point had antiquated cell service that EORN will update. And there are 74 co-locations, which refers to existing towers where Rogers Communications will add its equipment.

Jason St. Pierre, the CEO of EORN, told Haliburton County council May 14 that project's strategic plan was changed last year and a new five-year plan was adopted.

The goal is to achieve 99 per cent cell and internet coverage where people work, live, and travel in eastern Ontario. It is hoped by the time the project ends to have 95 per cent coverage in areas with standard service levels. More data intensive applications will be better accommodated by 85 per cent high-definition service coverage.

He said about 56 per cent of sites identified in Haliburton County have been completed. That is, all 21 existing tower upgrades have been completed, three of four co-locations have been done, and six of 29 new sites are in service.

"So we are seeing progress," St. Pierre said. "Not the progress I'd like to come to the county council to share at this point, but we are seeing some positive progress throughout the project."

The new sites to be constructed this year is in Algonquin Highlands. The remainder of the project's new sites have been slated to happen next year and are hoped to be operating by the end of July 2026 at the project's conclusion.

"The reason for this is we've had a challenge trying to find suitable locations to be able to host towers," he said.

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, said there's likely going to be some residents in the county who will not get the level of service they'd like. He wondered if there would be opportunities for entrepreneurs to offer coverage improvements.

> "Not the progress I'd like to come to the county council to share at this point, but we are seeing some positive progress throughout the project."
>
> –JASON ST. PIERRE, EORN CEO

St. Pierre said some of the specifications that EORN has issued is for their towers to be able to host co-location setups.

"So other carriers could co-locate on that space if they so require or wish to and they have a business plan to do so," he said.

There are some small-scale internet service providers that have recently started in the marketplace.

"We are looking to work with some of those providers that you might be thinking of to try to close some of those gaps where you're talking 50, 60 homes or seasonal cottages," St. Pierre said. "We're working through that right now and the province has just provided us in the last two months a fairly detailed map on where those areas might be."

"It's exciting to see the diversification that EORN is looking at and I think that it offers a lot of exciting opportunities for both EORN and for all of the municipalities and county," said Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands.

Highlands Summer Festival hits the stage

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's almost showtime.

And it's all coming together.

Audiences attending this year's Highlands Summer Festival Productions are in a real treat. With a full lineup kicking off with *Urinetown: the Musical* on July 1.

And rehearsals are well underway. Douglas Walker is the director for the coming musical, as well as the artistic director for the entire festival. "I really love musicals," he said. "That was my first big introduction to theatre, was musical theatre."

Urinetown is a well-known play that has hit stages around the world. As a satirical farce with interwoven political undertones, the show is sure to appeal to audiences of all ages.

That's why Walker was adamant about casting all ages. "The show has been done with all adults, or all students before, but it's set in a town, and a real town would have people of all ages in it."

He says that by adding kids to the cast, it allows for variety in the songs, the costumes, and the audiences. So far, four weekends of rehearsals in, he's been deeply impressed with the professionalism and decorum of the cast as a whole. "I usually send out a little email before a show, just to remind people of rehearsal etiquette," he laughed. "But I didn't have to do that with this crew. They've just been amazing."

The stacked cast of 16 locals will have some familiar faces, as well as some who are brand new to the stage. But Douglas was able to cast the whole show from only two audition sessions. "Everyone's auditions were very strong," he said. "We really lucked out."

The cast started meeting a few weeks ago, and will continue to meet every weekend leading up to showtime. Right before opening night, they will have the opportunity to rehearse a few times on the real stage, with all prior rehearsals happening in the Highlands Summer Festival's shop. Currently, crews are working alongside the actors to build the sets for the coming shows. "All the crew builders and painters have been just amazing," said Walker, noting the complex, two-level set required for the coming musical. He also noted that actors have been given the chance to start rehearsing with props and costumes, provided and created by longtime Summer Festival alumni Melissa Stephens.

The Festival generally kicks off with a bang, or in this case, a musical. The next show in the lineup is a two-person romantic drama called *Salt Water Moon,* and the third is the comedy titled *Drinking Habits.* There are an array of musical talents and performances sprinkled throughout the season as well.

While *Urinetown: the Musical* carries on with rehearsals, the other plays start to take shape in the form of casting, rehearsals, and costumes. Walker shared that he was incredibly impressed with the auditions this year, and said that he found the majority of the roles fell into place quite naturally.

It's shaping up to be a successful season of theatre ahead.

For tickets for the upcoming shows or for more information, visit www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

Minden poetry jam seeks lovers of poetry

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Dust off your bongos and turtlenecks, the Arts Council of the Haliburton Highlands are hosting a poetry jam at the Dominion Hotel on Saturday, May 24.

The theme of the Poetry Jam is "What home means …" which can be interpreted in a variety of different ways. From expats yearning for their homelands, to sovereign identity, to an imagined dystopia, the concept of a home evokes something different to everybody. Poems can range from the comedic, to heartwrenching, to abstract.

Poetry has the power to soothe, instruct, comfort, and entertain, says local poet and poetry jam organizer Lea Harper.

The Arts Council is currently seeking interested presenters. All poets interested in presenting their own original work, poetry fans reading their favourite poems, or improvisers, everyone is welcome to perform at the jam. Interested performers are asked to call Harper at 705-754 4678 to reserve their performance slot.

A spiritual successor to the Dead Poets Society-type events of the past, Harper hopes that this poetry jam brings poets and writers of all skill levels and experiences together. With enough luck, musicians and other artists will attend the event and foster future interdisciplinary collaborations.

"I'm hoping to unite the poets in this community," said Harper.

As a poet herself, Harper says that she is most often inspired by love and loss, especially the appreciation of life that comes from experiencing loss.

Recently, Harper has seen an increase in poetry performance spaces opening in Toronto and feels that Haliburton County deserves its own space for poets to come together, share their work, and their love of poetry.

While this is one of the first open poetry events post COVID-19 pandemic, Harper says that the future of the event will be dependent on turnout and what participants are interested in. In the future, the event could be a hybrid of poetry and music performances or a combination of both.

> "Your voice needs to be heard. Your voice is valuable."
>
> – LEA HARPER

"There are a lot of possibilities here," said Harper.

Everyone, of all skill levels, is encouraged to attend the event. There is no pressure to perform, the only prerequisite is that you have a love of poetry.

"A lot of people have stage fright," said Harper. "I don't think it is something you need to worry about."

Everyone is encouraged to go up to the microphone and share poetry in some form.

"It's more important than ever to have your voice be heard," said Harper. "Your voice needs to be heard. Your voice is valuable."

Registration for the poetry jam event is appreciated, with tickets being available through Eventbrite. There is no set price for attending, but donations are appreciated. All donations collected will go back to the Arts Council of the Haliburton Highlands. No one will be turned away at the door.

The Dominion Hotel is located at 113 Main Street in Minden. The poetry jam on Saturday, May 24 begins at 7 p.m. and goes until 10 p.m.

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FITNESS CLASSES

There is still time to join our wonderful instructor for a 4-week fitness class! Classes run from June 3 to 26, 2025. Register online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 8:00AM - 12:00 PM at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: REINSTATEMENT OF BRUSH DISPOSAL FEES

Effective June 14, 2025, brush disposal fees will be reinstated. These fees were temporarily waived in response to the ice storm that impacted our area at the end of March. With clean up efforts now largely completed; standard brush disposal fees will resume.

CELEBRATE CANADA DAY WITH MINDEN HILLS

We are currently looking for vendors to showcase their products, cause, or service for our Canada Day event. Deadline for submission is May 31st, 2025. To reserve your spot please email our Recreation Coordinator, Megan Locker, at mlocker@mindenhills.ca

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

- Temporary Full-Time Community Services Operator
- Waste Disposal Site Attendant (24 hrs/week)

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

May 29 – Regular Council Meeting
June 12 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Mountain Lake at a Glance – The Hidden Nature of Paint,* an exhibit by Gord Peteran, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until July 12. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.
- *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE (Kenora, Ontario) on display until June 28 in the Welch Room. The exhibit examines the residential school experience and its long-term effects through images, text, video, archival material, and personal recollections. Learn why the schools were established, what life in the schools was like, the recent settlement agreement, and Government and church apologies. Admission is by donation.
- Join the UFO Craft Group on Friday, May 23 from 1 – 3 pm in the Welch Room. All are welcome to bring their unfinished projects to work on.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

WATCH FOR WORKERS

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

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Vaccination is the best tactic against measles

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The ongoing measles outbreak has been especially difficult for the small rural centres of Ontario.

For each measles infection reported provincewide, an investigation takes place to identify places where people may have been exposed to the virus. Smaller hospitals have to manage the workload associated with emergency department visits, laboratory investigations, imaging, and increased hospital admissions.

Officials at the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough (HKNP) public health unit told its board of health members May 15 that a careful eye continues to be trained on the outbreak's progress.

Dr. Natalie Bocking said there have been between 150 and 200 new cases of measles every week across the province over about the last month. The majority of those cases have been attributed to an initial outbreak that began last fall.

The outbreak has tallied 1,622 infections in Ontario so far.

Of that number, 94 per cent of patients have never been vaccinated for measles, and all have an unknown immunization status.

"This is an outbreak that has been impacting people who are not vaccinated and not protected against the measles virus," Bocking said.

There have been 119 hospitalizations associated with the outbreak. Nine have been intensive care cases. Public Health Ontario has said 84 of that number are children.

"This is a pretty significant number for our region and the province overall," she said. "The majority of cases continue to be in southwestern Ontario."

There are no cases within the HKNP public health unit's geographic area of responsibility, but there is potential for a case to occur. As such, the health unit continues to prepare for when a case may arise.

Communication efforts have been enhanced across both pre-merger legacy websites and social media channels. Direct contact has been made with recreational camps to ensure operators are aware of how to protect campers and staff.

Bocking said vaccination continues to be the most important way to protect against measles. She asked that health board members when they speak to their colleagues to impress upon them the importance of vaccinations.

"I think we should not be surprised if we do see a case," she said. "We certainly have had individuals that have been exposed in other jurisdictions where a case has been identified. So at the health unit, we continue to plan and prepare for when a case may or will likely arrive."

A board of health member who is fully vaccinated and has been so for many years asked if it's necessary to get a booster vaccine.

"In general, we consider people born before 1970 to be immune to measles because the prevalence of measles at that time was quite high," Bocking said. "So if you had a measles infection, you're presumed to be immune to it."

The standard of having two doses of the vaccine, the first in infancy and the second between four and six years old, wasn't adopted until the late-1990s.

"So there might be a small portion of the public that only received one dose of the MMR vaccine," she said.

That's the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine.

"So if people have a history of one dose of MMR, they're absolutely recommended to get a second dose," Bocking said. "If they're unsure they've had the measles or they're unsure if they have been vaccinated, then they can ask their health care provider for a second dose."

Dr. Thomas Piggott, the unit's medical officer of health, said children as young as six months old can now get vaccinated.

"It is safe and effective protection," he said. "That's been a question we've received as well."

Canada Post strike

A Special Note to our valued subscribers

In anticipation of a possible strike by Canada Post we are making adjustments to how you can access your paper(s).

In the event of Canada Post Strike, delivery of all mail could be interrupted. During a strike the Times will continue to operate and print as always.

Subscribers can choose from the following options:

1. **Email** classifieds@haliburtonpress.com and we will send you a digital copy of the Times during the strike.

2. **Purchase** a paper at any local newspaper dealer in town.

3. **Stop by the Times office** 2 IGA Rd., Unit 2 Minden, **Wednesday, 9am - 1pm** and pick up your paper at no cost to you.

The Times

Plant ahead

The Minden and District Horticultural Society held their annual plant sale during a rainy Saturday this past weekend in Minden. The drizzle didn't seem to keep people away from shopping through a wide variety of plants for their gardens. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Home and Cottage Show ready to roll

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's a sure sign of summer and an event the community looks forward to each and every year: the annual Haliburton Home and Cottage Show.

Now in its 46th year, the event is put on by the Haliburton Curling Club, and their wealth of dedicated volunteers. "Our plans are well underway," said organizer Andy Glecoff, who has been a part of the Curling Club since 1997, and plays a key role in the development and implementation of the upcoming show.

After 46 years in Haliburton, the show has established a name for itself. "We've gotten a real reputation," chuckled Glecoff, noting that the event is chock-full with 150 exhibitors, and dozens more on the waitlist. "Our show gives businesses a chance to showcase themselves to our county."

With a wide spectrum of home and cottage services, home decor, decks, docks, heating and cooling, landscaping, automotive, alternative energy, travel agencies, and beauty products, there's sure to be something for everyone. "There's a real assortment of services," noted Glecoff. "All trying different things."

"The Haliburton Home and Cottage Show is a community-based show," shared their website. "Our mission is to connect show visitors with businesses and organizations that have relevant information, products, and services to offer for the greater good of the community."

This year, there are also over a dozen not-for-profit organizations setting up onsite, including the Outdoor Association, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Centre, Environment Haliburton, and Master Gardeners, to name a few.

Glecoff shared that the Haliburton Rotary car draw will be back this year, featuring a 2025 GMC Terrain as the car of choice for the season. There will also be an entry draw for some great prizes, including a wildlife painting by renowned artist David Alexander Risk, a weekend away at Buttermilk Falls Resort, and a bistro set from Glecoff's Family Store. The Home Show's chosen charity this year is the Turtle Guardians, and there will be options for donations upon arrival.

To get to and from the event, the Curling Club has organized a shuttle bus between the Haliburton Arena and the Medical Centre on Gelert Road. The free shuttle will be running every 15 minutes, in an effort to mitigate congestion in the parking lots.

Glecoff noted that despite the event pushing 50 years, many do not recognize that it is put on by 150 volunteers from the Haliburton Curling Club. He shared that many great curlers have gone through the programs that the Curling Club offers, such as Jacob Dobson who won the U21 Canadian Junior Cup, and Owen Nicholls who played in the 2023 Winter Games. "We welcome public schools, adults, anyone who wants to play," said Glecoff, who himself curls four times a week. By fundraising for the programs at the club, Glecoff shared that they are able to sustain, support, and subsidize the needs and wants of the growing sport in Haliburton.

While the Home and Cottage Show may seem geared towards cottagers, Glecoff said that the vast majority of attendees are locals - a tradition to attend the show year over year. "We see about 25 per cent from out of town, and 75 per cent from across the county," he said.

Admission is $3 for adults, free for kids, with a free doggy daycare available for furry friends as well, provided by Tails and Trails and I Love Your Dog.

While the event planning kicks off every year on December 1, Glecoff shared that the months of planning and preparation are coming together, and he is eager for the busy weekend ahead.

The Haliburton Home and Cottage Show is running at the Haliburton Arena on Friday, May 30 from 3 to 8 p.m., Saturday May 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday June 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit their website at www.haliburtonhomeandcottageshow.com.

Pizza party

From left, Jasmine Ben, British Bhai, Dhruv Patel, Marcus Anwar, and Harman Singh pose for a photo at the May 16 grand opening of New Orleans Pizza at 2 IGA Road in Minden. The line was circled around the block on the opening day. Their phone line and online ordering also had to be paused to keep up with the overwhelming demand. /THOMAS SMITH staff

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points of view

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Downtown draw

IT'S THE moment we've all been waiting for. The May long weekend. We're here. We made it. We've battled a particularly long winter, a highly damaging ice storm, and narrowly avoided a state of emergency flood situation.

We've earned it. A full and rich summer ahead.

But as per usual, we are at the mercy of Mother Nature. A weekend of rain and sky slush have dictated the successes of the start of the season.

I spent a few years working in the tourism world. One of the reasons I stepped away was because it felt like a never-ending uphill battle. In that industry, you are always relying on factors far beyond your control. The weather, the unpredictable visitor patterns, the trends and tricks that skirt across the screens of social media consumers.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's nearly impossible to keep up with. And that creates a world of challenges. Unpleasant challenges. And while some people have the guts and gusto to climb up those mountains again and again, I did not.

But as I have removed myself from the world, and am now just a resident of a tourism town, I think we should take a look at our offerings throughout the downtown core.

Leading up to this past weekend, I heard plenty of mumbles and grumbles about the pending weather report. "Supposed to rain," they would say with an eye roll. Like the weather is about to unravel all the plans for the weekend ahead. And it may have an impact on a few - the ones who are scheduling only outdoor time at the dock or the trails.

But personally, I always thought a rainy weekend on the radar was a bonus for the businesses in our downtown core. A reason for folks to step away from the cottage and come to explore the miniature magic that is Minden.

We have a golden opportunity (or at least a very wet one) to showcase our best assets to an interested audience. How are we making the most of this?

When I look at Minden with a visitor lens, sometimes I wonder if there is enough of a draw to the downtown core. Would visitors carve out a window in their precious cottage getaway to spend a slice of time here?

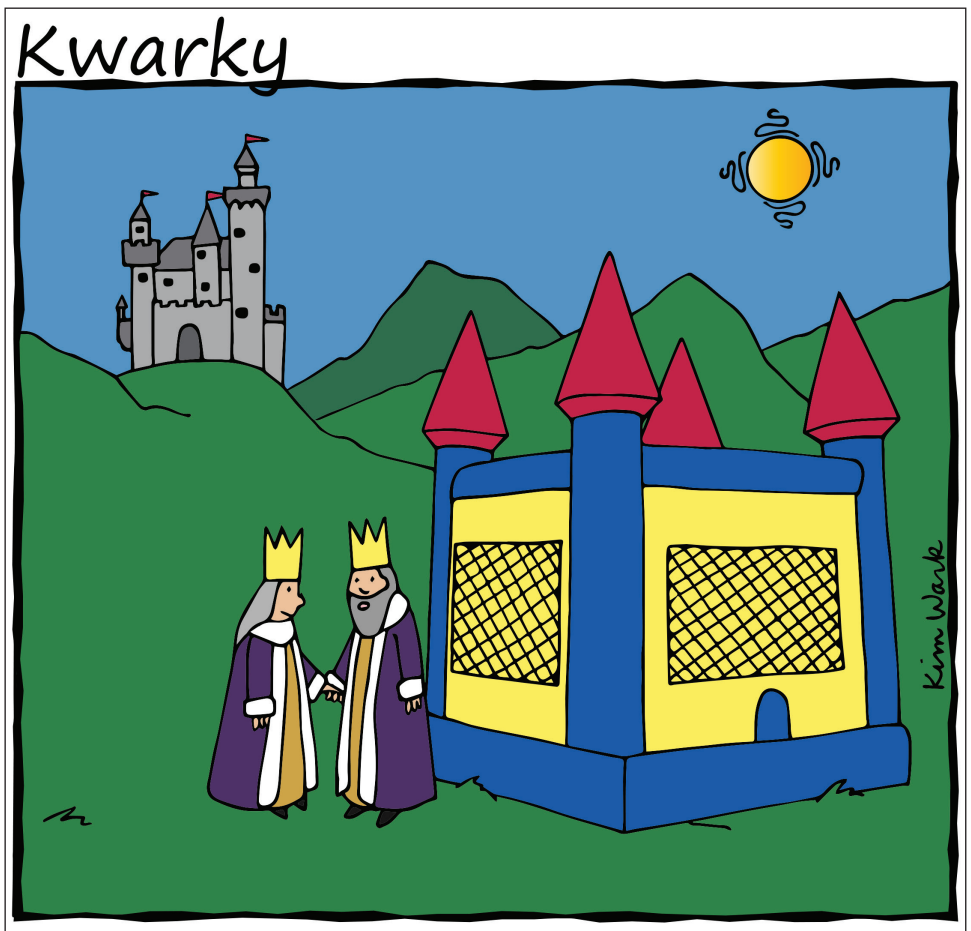
Because while we experience the community events, the camaraderie, the developed connections and friendships that naturally evolve and form in small towns, the ones just passing through don't feel that ease. They are simply looking for an experience. And maybe that experience is shopping. Maybe it's dining out. Maybe it's something for their kids, something for fun, something for memories.

And as a community, do we have all those offerings? I can think of a few desirable shopping spots, eating spots, fun spots. But is it enough? Are we a destination?

Personally, as a mom to a particularly little kiddo, I do think there is a gap for young families in the community. On rainy days, we are eagerly seeking an escape from the house. But where could we go in Minden?

There are gaps, for sure. But this is also a community of creatives and magicians, and if anyone can do it, it could be us. (Pending approval from township staff. There will be a whole other editorial on that…)

So here's to the start of the summer. Rain or shine, we got this.



"We're downsizing."

Rough and tumbler

NOW THAT the camping season is upon us, I think its time to discuss one of the most misunderstood phrases in camping. I am, of course, talking about the phrase, "Roughing it."

Obviously, this has changed with the times.

When I was a kid, this meant we would go camping with a dull implement, a flashlight, and a two-person pup tent. (This was confusing to our parents, because "dull implement" also described everyone in our group of friends.)

The idea was that you would take the expedition (back then, every camping trip was referred to as an expedition) into the far reaches of the known world and you would survive right up until someone heard the first inexplicable noise after dark. After that, the expedition would hastily agree that its objective had been completed and decide it was best to beat a hasty retreat to the house of whoever's yard your expedition was situated in.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

When it comes to gear selection, the two-person pup tent was basically self-explanatory. It housed the six adventurers in the expedition along with what our mothers called "snacks" but what we, more correctly, referred to as "provisions." This was no small feat since we generally took enough provisions to last a crew of 40 hardy sailors for nigh two months.

More importantly, setting up the pup tent provided a pleasant diversion and gave us purpose for around an hour as we raced towards setting it up before the imminent onset of darkness, after which two things would happen. First, our flashlight batteries would die simultaneously. Second, the temperature would plummet, and it would begin pouring rain, and we would discover that making a "skylight" in the tent's roof was not as good an idea as it seemed at the time – although it did save dozens of mosquitoes from taking a soaking.

Back when I was a kid this was called Roughing It 101. Roughing It 102 taught you more advanced techniques such as how to take a lighter that did not work and how to forget your mosquito repellent.

These days, roughing it is a whole other thing.

I was reminded of this on the weekend when my best friend told me of his son's planned camping expedition which included towing a new and fully functional tent trailer to a well-maintained campground of his choice. Once there, he and his expedition would set up only one barbecue and plug in their medium screen TV, heater, lighting, along with other implements to the outdoor power receptacle and their back up generators.

For the duration of their camping trip, they would then be forced to only eat barbecued meat and other dishes pulled straight from a plug-in cooler big enough to comfortably house Count Dracula.

I know. On the surface, this does not appear to be roughing it at all. But a few things made it so. First, they faced the distinct possibility of needing to walk several steps from the camper to find a Wi-Fi signal. Secondly, they only brought one barbecue.

Otherwise, they faced the same challenges that campers who have roughed it faced since the very first camping trip.

Which is to say that they had to sleep in a confined space that held other campers who had also consumed lunch at a truck stop several miles away. Worse still, they had no nearby home to retreat to. Or skylight.

Say what you want about modern campers, but any way you cut it, that's rough.

points of view

The Baby in the Ditch

IT MUST be difficult to be Jewish these days. Because Netanyahu, the man elected by the people who live in Israel – Jewish by definition – is acting like Hitler, the man who manifested the illogical hatred that Jewish people have absorbed in many places over many eras. Netanyahu says Hamas made him do it. The Gazans, who did not elect Hamas, are carnage in the crossfire.

And when we say elected, we know that doesn't mean that everyone who lives in the jurisdiction cast their vote for the party that won. In our world, if we could have voted but didn't, we've forfeited our right to complain. If we voted for other than the party that won, it is our democratic duty to respect the will of the majority. Except it's seldom the majority, usually the plurality (30 per cent will often do it!) that carries the day. So from a personal rather than political perspective, there's wiggle room, some space to disavow what your jurisdiction collectively said. 'I didn't vote for Ford', you can say, 'So I'm not responsible for what he's doing.' If you're so inclined, you can even embrace I-told-you-so superiority.

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

But in the meantime, what the leaders, elected or not, majority or plurality, are doing is happening in real time and real life, as the Gazans have reason to know. The Jews who live in Israel can vote another way another time and change the trajectory. The Jews who don't live in Israel don't have that leverage. But they are nevertheless held responsible in the eyes of many. The only way out is to deny their Jewishness. That's a heavy price to pay, a big chunk of oneself to incinerate, although it has been done many times, many ways, for many reasons.

I'm thinking of these things these days because we just had an election – two elections – and will be living with the consequences. And because my Jewish friend just published her book *One in Six Million: The Baby by the Roadside and the Man Who Retraced a Holocaust Survivor's Lost Identity* which is about the importance of knowing where you came from in order to know in some fullness who you are. The character around which the book circulates is Maria, whose parents left her as a baby in a ditch as they trundled off to the death camp. A community of volunteers led by Stanley Diamond, a distant relative of my author friend, sifted for years, across countries and languages, through a mountainous morass of details to finally be able to not only assure her she was Jewish, but also to introduce her to a bevy of relatives. The knowing filled an aching emptiness.

The centrality of Jewishness to sense of self is one thing; is being Canadian different?

Perhaps, because as far as I know being Canadian hasn't to date been grounds for being hated or discriminated against. We can jettison our maple leaf pin and pass for other-than. We are experiencing some embarrassment as we acknowledge our colonizing past, and time will tell whether we think that apology, our Canadian go-to practice, is sufficient recompense. Whether the that-was-then-and-this-is-now argument will get us a get-out-of-jail-free card.

It shouldn't. Not if our roots are important to our identity. You don't have to be perfect to be proud. In fact, any genealogist will tell you perfection does not exist in the family tree. You research at your peril: for every royal scion or brilliant businessman, there is a con or a scoundrel hiding in your roots. They may be, in fact, the most illuminating clues to who you are. Canada's history of genocide on Indigenous peoples is as real as Israel's war on Gaza and Hitler's war on Jews.

We must acknowledge that we ourselves, in the present, are the roots that the future builds on. Our rooty tendrils include who we elected and how we adapted to reality not entirely of our own making. How we position ourselves about the Marias left swaddled in the ditch, an innocent wrapped in silenced history. Maria was adopted and nurtured by a childish non-Jewish couple and had a life that was not as good as one might wish but good enough. She honored her imperfect adoptive parents (who may have done a flit in the night to prevent her from being claimed by relatives) even as she searched for her unknown (was abandoning her perfection?) biological parents.

The rooty ethical challenges that face us in this time of international upheaval are not as evident as a baby in the ditch. But they're there. We are some kind of summation of what we do with what life hands us – DNA, history, weather, health, serendipity. You can't deny it so you might as well embrace it.

Minden Memories

This 1940s photo captures the construction of the Minden Arena, where a work crew is seen manually raising a truss so a round pole can be slipped underneath for support. The poles helped hold the trusses steady until they could be fully secured, as seen in the background. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

Need Minden ER re-opened

To the Editor,

I am reaching out about the situation at Haliburton Hospital ER on May 12, 2025. Needing the help of a nurse or doctor at the ER at 1 p.m. in the afternoon. The waiting room was full of triage and people standing outside seeking to see one or the other emergency care was impossible. We couldn't even get through the front doors.

No room for another patient so we left the hospital, as we sit at home waiting and wondering what our next move should be, with a blown IV line medicine flowing out of the arm and port filled with blood, called our community health nurse back to see how she could help even though she had already been in to see my husband Mark in the morning and all was well at this point.

The nurse suggested we go back to hospital to have his line placed back into the arm but I will say at this time Mark's had enough and just wants the IV pulled. We were at the ER every day last week for the same issue. Back to the hospital we went to the waiting room, still packed. Many complained, all realizing that the nurses and doctor are being pushed to the limit.

Mark had knee surgery April 1st in Lindsay Ross Memorial hospital unfortunately somehow ended up with an infection in knee that required him to be sent home with IV for 14 days. I›m sending this letter not just about our story but the past and future stories to be told. We need Minden hospital to reopen and yes I understand it was closed due to shortage of doctors and nurses so if they choose to keep the hospital closed then we need the walk-in clinic open Monday to Saturday not just weekends.

Unfortunately I see and understand that people are using the ER for non-emergency situations because they have no doctor or can›t get in to see their doctor half the time,

My beef is something has to change within Haliburton County ER and surrounding areas, for Haliburton has grown, and it needs to be addressed sooner than later for future care of people and community. Weekends haven›t started for cottagers coming up for the season and how is going to look for our summer going forward? Today was not the only day ER was overloaded with patients. Last week had a few other days with an overload of patients, the Haliburton ER is completely overwhelmed with many needing care for one reason or another and this is not acceptable and only has gotten worse.

I'm so very grateful for the nurses we have coming in and helping us with the issue on hand. Bless those ladies with the outstanding compassion and care they have provided to us and many others. I'm sure to be more inclined to donate to this service than the ER at this point and time.

Kelly Hatton,
Haliburton

More letters to the Editor on page 8

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

letters to the editor

Don't shy away from county transportation

To the editor,

I think this is the fifth iteration of a County transportation plan that I've seen hoisted. And I mean hoisted, as raised briefly in the air to see what way the wind is blowing. And it appears to blow in the same blinkered direction as previously – with some welcome contrary voices about putting township hats aside when sitting at the County table.

May I recall that an on-demand approach has failed before, for what I think is an obvious reason: if no one sees a bus on the road, no one thinks there's a bus service to call. All the advertising in the world is not going to do what word of mouth does. 'I took it; it was great!'. 'Bit of a switch to plan around a bus schedule rather than rev up the car whenever I choose, but (until I get a Tesla – not!) the climate thanks me.' 'Had a great chat with Joe on the bus – hadn't seen him since he quit driving.'

And re AH not paying for what it doesn't use, if the route was the 21-118-35 circle and had stops in West Guilford and Carnavon (at the bakery which is on the AH side of the line), AH would be served. If the bus could be hailed en route, service would be even broader.

Courage, dear counsellors: give yourself a legacy!

Fay Martin,
Minden

Council at odds with what to do with land

from page 1

"This was a very preliminary investigation and in no way are the identified parcels committed to development," according to a staff report tabled during council's May 15 meeting. "Council approval and further investigation would be required should interest in one of the identified parcels be raised."

Mayor Liz Danielsen said it's a high area of interest for council to initiate housing projects. The township and Haliburton County as a whole has a dearth of housing options. A shallow labour pool, limited economic development avenues, and other issues are believed to stem from a limited housing stock.

"Personally, I think, and based on some of the discussions that I've had with council and we've had as a group, we see our best bet is the property that is on Highway 118," she said.

"I kind of wish there was a little bit more push put on, you know, working with Habitat for Humanity or seeing whether there's anything we can do with them with respect to that."

She said she feels that council is leaning toward those two Maple Lake properties on Highway 118.

"That we just simply dispose of them," Danielsen said. "They are lands that are available for development and they're not doing any good or providing any benefit as they sit."

And she doesn't see either of those parcels as being a suitable fit for any programs that could accommodate affordable housing development.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said she remains curious whether Habitat for Humanity can still build affordable housing on donated property for a family in need.

Sean O'Callaghan, the township's planner, said it seems based on discussions with the organization that Habitat for Humanity is focused more on higher density housing development.

"But we certainly contact them again to see if that's changed at all," he said. "If there would be any interest now that council seems interested in disposing of those two parcels of land."

Councillor Sabrina Richards said she prefers that the parcels be sold. The money from the sale and funds in a housing reserve could go toward future affordable housing projects with Habitat for Humanity.

"The ongoing maintenance costs of being on a private road within Maple Lake Estates, I don't think it would fit into that particularly," Richards said. "I think the money could be better used in the higher density development."

Coun. Lisa Barry asked if there has been discussions with the Places for People organization.

O'Callaghan said there hasn't been any talks with Places for People regarding developing the Highway 118 properties.

Danielsen said the Places for People group have gotten into developed properties that they turn into affordable housing. She isn't certain if the group would be interested in empty lots.

Dailloux broached the possibility of a collaboration between Habitat for Humanity and Places for People. That latter group could take on some units within the former's development.

"I still think there's benefit in talking to Habitat to see if they're interested in vacant parcels of land before we decide outright to just let's put them up for sale," Danielsen said.

Township staff will reach out to both charitable organizations to gauge interest in the land. If there isn't any interest, staff will return to council with options on how to dispose of those Highway 118 parcels.

Richards and Danielsen were keen on the idea to issue a request for proposals from developers to see what could be done with the land on Little Hawk Lake Road.

"It has been kind of sitting there for a long time," Danielsen said. "Nobody out there really knows that it's there and available."

Gord Peteran poses while painting a scene from Mountain Lake. /submitted

New exhibit by Gord Peteran on display at MHCC

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Mountain Lake at a Glance (The Hidden Nature of Paint) is a brand new exhibit on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Gord Peteran, a seasonal resident, has painted 400 oil sketches of the same northwesterly facing view from his family's cottage on Mountain Lake. A private affair that is available to the public for the first time, each of the paintings include a note from Peteran. The notes describe events such as babies being born, getting an ice cream cone, intense feelings of loneliness, or visitations by dead ancestors.

"They perform much like a curious private diary of sorts," said Peteran.

Peteran has been a professor at the Ontario College of Art and Design for the past 25 years

"This repeated depiction of Mountain Lake will be presented chronologically, with the panels perched on a simple continuous wall shelf that meanders throughout the many spaces of the Cultural Centre," said Peteran. "The first one painted in 1985 will begin the show at the entranceway." The latest scene of Mountain Lake, completed shortly before the opening on May 15, completes the show.

"They are tiny so it's important to me that they also be viewed at the height and slight angle that they were created, maintaining the intimate proximity of their creation," said Peteran.

Peteran says that the depictions of Mountain Lake were never intended to be seen by the public. After painting the view of Mountain Lake, the paintings were put in an old trunk and forgotten about. Both the painting easel and the trunk are on display.

"I had not quite noticed the obsessive nature of such an extended undertaking until recently while showing them to a good friend, psychoanalyst Dr. David Dorenbaum," said Peteran.

Dr. David Dorenbaum, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto has published works on both art and psychoanalysis. The pair have frequently collaborated, with Peteran even crafting a bookshelf for Dorenabum's Spadina Circle office, made from steel, copper, and walnut.

"Recording in oil paint what I see and hear, and think about was just something I did while at the cottage. Almost like a habit," said Peteran. "I had not considered them precious, or part of my art practice, however looking back over the many, many, many painted panels with David, through fresh eyes, we realized collectively they had become something else. A kind of case study about commitment to place that might be worth sharing with others who also commit to a lake."

No painting has been excluded for the exhibit.

"I am not showing only the 'best' ones, I'm showing all of them," said Peteran. "Good or bad."

Peteran acknowledges that there are many great painters that capture the varied beauty of the Haliburton Highlands, but says that his paintings of the same view of Mountain Lake depict an uniquely intense and extended focus.

"It's an experiment," said Peteran."Perhaps the whole show is a sculpture in paint?"

Mountain Lake at a Glance (The Hidden Nature of Paint) will be displayed at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery from May 15 to July 12. Located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, the Agnes Jamieson Gallery is a part of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

GET IT online
www.haliburtonecho.ca

Highlands Cinema owner puzzled over recent sign

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Recently, a sign showing support for Keith Stata has been erected, replacing a sign he had made to express his discontent towards the City of Kawartha Lakes. /THOMAS SMITH staff

With around 100 trees that toppled during the ice storm in April, Highlands Cinemas owner Keith Stata was hard at work cleaning up his property to reopen on May 2.

"It cost me a fortune, we had six guys here trying to haul things away," said Stata.

It took many volunteers with chainsaws and tractors to take all of the fallen debris away. Some of the building's roofs remain dented from trees falling on them. Luckily, no cat was injured in the storm.

"It cost me $1,000 to clear 900 feet of walkways," said Stata.

With over 60 cats living in and around the property, Stata needed to blow the snow to keep the walkways clear and use salt on the paths to prevent a fall. Stata takes no breaks or holidays when it comes to the cats. Every day, someone needs to feed them, clean their litter boxes, and care for them. With unique medical requirements such as insulin shots and thyroid medication, Stata says that caring for the cats is a feat that takes 40 hours per week.

In 2024, Maryanna Leach gifted Stata her Cottage Country Cats charity, allowing Stata to give out tax receipts for any donations given towards the upkeep and care of the cats. For anyone wanting to adopt a cat, a home inspection will be conducted, a vet reference is needed, and you must promise to never let your cat free roam outside.

Now that spring has sprung, Stata has had to start clearing brush away to allow for customers to visit the theatre.

"The jungle is starting to grow," says Stata. With the warm weather, bamboo is already shooting from the ground outside of the buildings. In the heat of the summer, Stata says that the property will have 12 foot artichoke plants, 12 foot bamboo plants, a whole bank of ferns and jewelweed everywhere. Stata estimates that the bamboo around the theatre will grow a foot per day in the rain and can quickly spread everywhere.

"It all has to be mulched or carried off the property because it's just a mess if you leave it," said Stata. "It's high maintenance because at the end of the season it has to be cut."

Chocolate bars and other cold temperature tolerant items can be stored in Stata's external storage containers, but items like his sodas and cat food must be removed from the outdoor trailers and brought inside the theatre for the winter to avoid them freezing. The theatre is then boarded up, with the doors being sealed. In the spring, everything is reversed, uncovered, and cleaned.

At their busiest time of the season, Stata estimates Highlands Cinemas can have over 1,500 visitors.

With his recent knee surgery, Stata has been unable to update the museum this season.

"People have no idea how much work it is," said Stata.

Every season's opening, Stata typically switches up the displays in the museum. With booking sheets and show sheets from the Beaver Theatre in Minden, doors from the International Theatre in Toronto and urinals from the Willow Theatre in Toronto, Highlands Cinemas houses artifacts and cinematic relics from around the world. Stata says that he often has school groups and film clubs visiting by busload to see the displays.

The collection is known in the film industry for its assortment of rare pieces and machinery. In the upcoming *It: Welcome to Derry* television show, Stata's projector, popcorn machine, and other artifacts will make an appearance. They have also rented props to *Road to Avonlea* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's do the Time Warp Again*, among many other productions.

A strong proponent against streaming services, Stata's walls are lined with hundreds of Blu-Rays and DVDs in his home.

"I have 3,000 movies," said Stata. "I went off the deep end, because I am not going to live forever, so I gotta get caught up."

With his own personal projection system and surround sound, Stata estimates he watches two movies per day. Stata says that the aspect ratio of modern streaming shows are typically 2.35:1, causing black lines on his projector screen.

"Everything is in the wrong format for televisions," said Stata. "In the old days, when they made television shows, they made them in the format for television. Nowadays, it seems they have a death wish to do them in any way but the right way."

Stata says his favourite recent film is *Cloud Atlas*. With last year's release of *The Movie Man*, Stata says that he has received fan letters, words of encouragement, and donations towards the care of the cats. He is very proud to have been involved with the film, has seen it about three times, and continues to cheer it on as it wins awards from places like the Vancouver Film Credits Circle, Red Rocks Film Festival, and from other festivals around the world.

Stata says that it is very strange to Google his name and have results that show his face.

Alongside the Canadian flag hung up with the Highlands Cinemas sign, there is a Pride flag and a Ukrainian flag. Stata used to fly the flag of the United States, but took it down after Trump was elected president.

"Last year, I got an email from somebody saying they loved the theatre but they were never coming back as long as the Pride flag was there," said Stata. "So it's up all the time now."

"They are born that way. It is not like they wake up one morning and decide they are going to be gay," said Stata. "So they can be bullied in the school yard and ostracized by their friends? They are born that way and that's the way it is. It's that simple."

Last year, Stata erected a sign showing his frustrations with the City of Kawartha Lakes. Stata says the city refused to grant his adjacent lot an entrance due to a 2017 bylaw that prohibited entrances on curves. Attempting to sell the lot during the COVID-19 pandemic, Stata was told that he needed to create an alternative entrance. Due to the high costs of creating the access, the sale fell through.

The sign speaking against the City of Kawartha Lakes has been recently torn down, says Stata. A sign has been erected in its place on his property saying "Your community loves and appreciates you and everything you do, Keith." Stata swears that he did not erect the sign himself.

"They snuck in the middle of the night and stuck it up," said Stata.

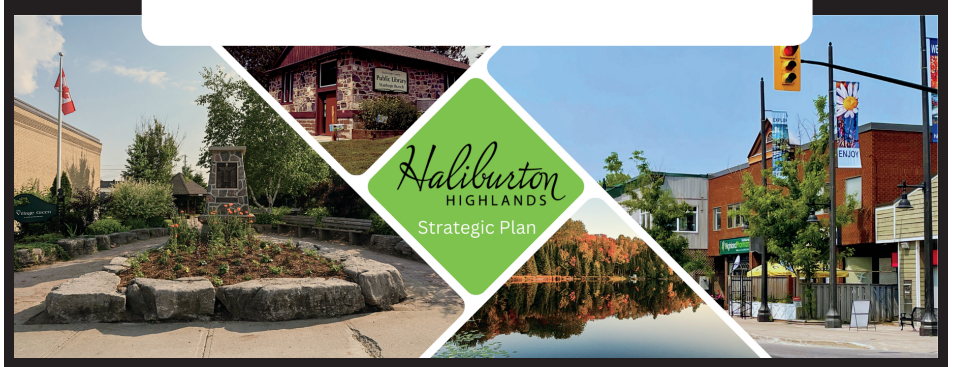
The way the sign is written, Stata feels like people may confuse its intention. Stata says he might take the sign down and rearrange the words to make the message more clear, that someone put the sign up to tell Stata that his community appreciates him. Overall, he is incredibly curious to know who put the sign up.

Since opening on May 2, Highlands Cinemas is ready for an exciting season. Prices have increased slightly, but Monday nights and matinees are still discounted.

Come to Highlands Cinemas to watch the most anticipated blockbusters of the year and even limited releases, such as *The Movie Man* and *Fortescue*.

Haliburton
HIGHLANDS

STRATEGIC PLAN
PUBLIC SURVEY



The County of Haliburton is creating a new five year Strategic Plan that will help guide the community and we want your input!
Fill out a survey by May 26th and have your say.

Express your thoughts
Give your ideas
Share your opinions

To complete the survey:

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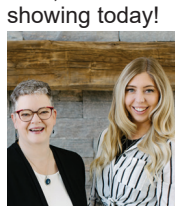

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- 100' frontage
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- 1 year old Log Bunkie

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BITTER LAKE
$699,500

WILBERFORCE $285,000

- Across from pub. acc. to Clement Lk
- 2 bed/1 bath, 3 season cottage
- Cozy interior; end of rd privacy
- Open concept; lrg main window
- Living rm walk-out to front yard
- Mixed topo; well treed; shed
- Accessed via municipal yr-rnd rd
- Being sold under Power of Sale
- Being sold As-Is Where-Is

Rick Forget
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1325 CLAUDE BROWN ROAD $1,299,000

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Gorgeous lake views, beautiful tiered gardens, stone walkways & 3 season
Guest House w. 3 bedroom, bath, kitchenette

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A Haliburton Forest pupdate

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's a boy! And a girl!

The Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre announced last week that one of the wolves, Quest, had successfully delivered two puppies at the educational facility. "While there was no visible way to see if Quest was in fact pregnant, we felt fairly confident and had high hopes for little ones," said Marena Wigmore, the manager for the Wolf Centre.

Identified as an Ontario Signature Educational Experience, the Wolf Centre dedicates itself to educating the public about wolf behaviour and ecology. With a small pack that resides at the facility, the staff are hands-off with the resident wolves, ensuring they maintain their natural tendencies around the seven acre enclosure they call home.

The last litter born onsite was in 2022, so with a new breeding pair establishing themselves within the hierarchy of the wolf pack, staff were hopeful for a litter this spring. "On May 3, Quest appeared only briefly in the observation area and was very clearly covered in dirt," said Wigmore. "This indicated that she had been in the den and being back out meant she was likely already done birthing. When we went to check the den, it was very refreshing to find that we were correct."

This is one of the few times that the staff interacts with the pack. In the interest of sustaining and supporting the pack for the centre, staff observe the early stages of development for the pups, to ensure they are healthy and safe. "We will assess the health, sex, quantity and colour of pups born for record-keeping and to determine if any puppies will be sent to other education facilities," said Wigmore. "Like most domestic dog puppies, we will also deworm the little ones to prevent parasites which can be fatal at such a young age." Unless there is a major issue requiring veterinary support, this is the first and last time that staff will connect with the animals.

While many are hopeful for the growing pack, Wigmore reminds visitors that it's important to stay cautiously optimistic. "The mortality rate for wolves is 50 per cent up to the first year to year and a half," she said. "However, with a smaller litter (average is three to five), odds tend to be better." She noted that with these smaller litter sizes, the mama wolf is able to produce enough milk resources to share, which can decrease the risk of starvation in infancy.

While many visitors' ears perk up at the sound of 'puppies', Wigmore shared that the pups likely won't be seen for the first few weeks. Typically, staff begin to observe pups in the observation area around six to eight weeks, with their visibility becoming more frequent and increase in duration. Wigmore encouraged visitors to check out the Wolf Centre social media pages for more updates, or call the centre in advance for information on pup visibility.

Marena Wigmore, the manager of the Wolf Centre, gently supports the newest pup at the facility. /photo submitted

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SUDOKU

		5			2			
	9	1		6	4	3		
				8				
1	5			7			3	
7								
	3		9				2	
5	7		8			4		
			1		7			2
				9		6		

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

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Raising money for a good paws

Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue in Gelert recently held their annual fundraiser over the May long weekend in an effort to raise money for a kennel onsite. The fun-filled day had face painting, a bouncy castle, pony rides, and live music. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Mountain Lake at a Glance

The Hidden Nature of Paint

An exhibit by Gord Peteran

May 15 - July 12, 2025

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MINDEN HILLS
Cultural Centre

The Highlands Chamber Orchestra presents:

'Dreams of Faraway Lands'

A performance which includes music from our past, and grand hopes and dreams for our future!

Saturday May 24, 2025

7:30 p.m.

This time, at the Pinestone Resort Ball Room.

Tickets are available at

Redman Records in Haliburton or reserve by calling:

705-457-0456

Tickets are $20 or $25 for an extra ticket for a child under 16.

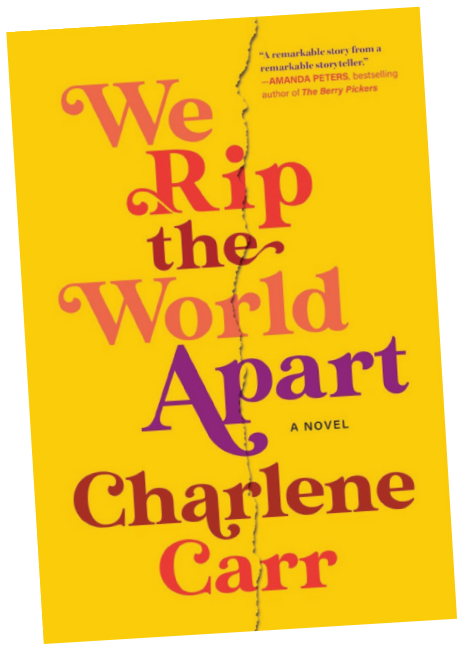
The orchestra will play a variety of favourites from our past concerts chosen by the members of the orchestra, as well as several new selections. This will include pieces by Raum, Sibelius, Badelt, Elgar, Brahms and Gershwin.

We will hear a guest solo by soprano Catherine D'Addario and the Highlands Festival Singers.

Come out and support our local orchestra on the 24th of May.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week


"A remarkable story from a remarkable storyteller."
—AMANDA PETERS, bestselling author of The Berry Pickers
We Rip the World Apart
A NOVEL
Charlene Carr

When 24-year-old Kareela discovers she's pregnant with a child she isn't sure she wants, it amplifies her struggle to understand her place in the world as a biracial woman. Her mother fled political turmoil in 1980s Jamaica with her husband and their first-born child, Antony, only to face racism in Canada. Years later, Antony was murdered by the police. Kareela, prompted by fear and uncertainty about the new life she carries, must come to terms with the mysteries surrounding her family's past and the need to make sense of both her identity and her future.

We Rip the World Apart by Charlene Carr is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Community Safety and Well-Being [CSWB]

The power of belonging

When we think about safety in our communities, we often picture things like police, fire services, or hospitals. But there's another kind of safety that's just as important - feeling like you belong.

Belonging means feeling accepted, supported, and connected to others. It starts with small things: a friendly neighbour, a teacher who listens, or a local program where kids feel welcome. These small moments can make a big difference, especially for children, youth, and families.

When young people feel like they belong, they are more likely to do well in school, stay out of trouble, and grow into healthy adults. Families who feel connected to their community are more likely to reach out for help when they need it. And when people feel supported, their mental health improves.

But not everyone feels this sense of belonging. Some children and youth feel left out at school. Some families feel isolated, especially if they are new to the area or facing challenges like poverty, transportation issues, housing issues, or mental health struggles. That's why it's so important to build communities where everyone feels included.

In Haliburton County, we're lucky to have organizations like Point in Time and the Youth Wellness Hub that are here to help. Point in Time offers a wide range of services for children, youth, and families - from counselling and parenting support to crisis response and youth outreach. The Youth Hub is a welcoming space where young people aged 12 to 25 can drop in, connect with peers, and access mental health care, education support, housing help, and more - all in one place.

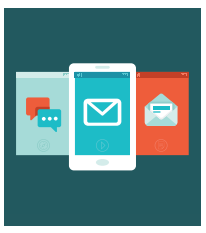
These services are designed to meet people where they're at, whether they're struggling or just looking for a safe space to grow. They help young people feel seen, heard, and supported. And they remind families that they're not alone.

Mental health is a big part of community safety and well-being. When people feel connected, they are more likely to talk about their feelings and ask for help. This can prevent problems from getting worse. It also helps reduce stigma, so people don't feel ashamed to speak up.

We all have a role to play. Whether you're a parent, teacher, coach, neighbour, or friend, you can help someone feel like they belong. And when we all feel like we belong, our communities become safer, healthier, and more hopeful places to live.

For more information about Community Safety and Well-Being in Haliburton County, visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca/cswb

Submitted by Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth, and Parents



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

May Long Weekend

Lots of fun was had in Minden over the May long weekend, despite unfavourable weather reports and plenty of rain. Left, Zoo to You visited the Minden Hills Cultural Centre to kick off the opening of their summer season. Below, the Minden Experience had their first official weekend in business of the year, and welcomed kids of all ages to their go-kart track and mini-golf course.
/TIM YANO staff photographer

Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on **Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m**.

The purpose of the meeting is for Council to receive additional information, in order for Council to make a decision on Zoning By-law Amendment Application:

AH-ZBA-009/24– Kegel,
Part of Lot 15, Concession 8
Geographic Township of Stanhope.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands.

Members of the Public may also observe the Council meeting by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found on the meeting Agenda at https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/portal/

Dated this 21st day of May, 2025.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379 ext. 333
dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

SUDOKU SOLUTION

4	8	5	3	1	2	7	6	9
2	9	1	7	6	4	3	8	5
3	6	7	5	8	9	2	1	4
1	5	4	2	7	8	9	3	6
7	2	9	6	5	3	1	4	8
6	3	8	9	4	1	5	2	7
5	7	3	8	2	6	4	9	1
9	4	6	1	3	7	8	5	2
8	1	2	4	9	5	6	7	3

Classifieds

Call 705-457-1037
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Friday at 12 pm

170 FOR SALE

25ft Jayco Trailer for sale. New batteries, propane tanks, and all new bedding. Asking $5,000 or best offer. Call **705-741-6097** or **1-800-954-9998**

ATV Honda Rincon 700 for sale. $7,500. Contact Bill **519-365-8829**

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220 YARD/GARAGE SALES

Yard Sale **1378 Old Donald Road, Haliburton, May 24th 10-4** with a May 25 rain date Some furniture, tools, folding heavy duty trailer ramps, mitre saw on stand, electrical bits and pieces, wading pool and chairs for kids, bike stuff, garden tools, wooden and aluminum ladders, hydraulic jacks, original paintings and much more!

280 ITEMS WANTED

Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Please call **705-286-3758** or cell **249-332-1212**

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Cleaner required for a professional office building: Vacuuming, sweeping, mopping, scrubbing, sanitizing/disinfecting; windows (seasonally); dusting, emptying wastebaskets; removing waste; cleaning kitchen; may also include heavy deep cleaning duties. Forward resume to jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Commercial Building for lease 1400 sq ft of office/retail space Off grid with hydro back up $2500.00 per month Parking on site 1067 Garden Gate Drive, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Contact angela@abbeygardens.ca for more information **705-754-4769, ext. 221**

570 NOTICES

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Environment & Stewardship Committee Members Required

Council invites letters of interest from members of the public who are interested in serving on the Environment and Stewardship Committee for the remaining term of Council.

The Environment and Stewardship committee provides input on the advancement of the Township's policies and initiatives that contain environmental components. The Committee will also propose new initiatives for Council's consideration in support of the Township's commitments to environmental protection.

To view the Terms of Reference for the Environment and Stewardship Committee please visit the Township's website at https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/municipal-services/committees/

Any person who has an interest in being appointed to the Environment and Stewardship Committee is invited to submit an expression of interest no later than June 11, 2025, to the attention of:

Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
T: (705) 489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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CENTURY 21 MINDEN & HALIBURTON

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Donald Walter Wunker
4 Jan. 1925 – 18 May 2025

In his 101st year. Don Wunker was a man of faith, a man who loved his family as well as travelling and the great outdoors, especially canoeing and hiking.

He was born in Elmwood, Cincinnati, OH, USA, and moved with his family to Miners' Bay, Ontario in 1937. He attended school at a one-room schoolhouse in Lutterworth Township and then completed high school at LCVI in Lindsay. While working at Miners' Bay Lodge, he met Audrey Austin of Kinmount and they were married at the Miner's Bay church in 1948.

Don & Audrey attended the Missionary Course at London (Ontario) Bible Institute and in 1952 they moved to the Dominican Republic to serve with UFM. They retired from the mission field back to Minden in 1993. During furloughs and after retirement from the mission, Don worked at Miners' Bay Lodge, the family business.

Survived by and greatly missed by his wife of 76 years, Audrey; children: Randy (Gail) of Minden, David (Anne) of Etobicoke and Janice of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 5 grandchildren: Magali Callies (Pablo), Adam Wunker (Darcey), Claire Wunker (Nick), Joe Seijas and Jennifer Seijas (Joel); and 5 great-grandchildren.

Predeceased by his parents William "Bill" Henry Wunker and Erna Viola (nee Hettrick) as well as older brothers and sisters-in-law William Jr "Bill" & Anna and Robert "Bob" & Mary.

Cremation has taken place. Interment will be at Pine Grove Cemetery, Norland, at a future date.

Classifieds

Call 705-457-1037
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Friday at 12 pm

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Wendy Joyce Wilkins

(July 1, 1944 - May 16, 2025) of Haliburton, Ontario passed away from cancer at the Haliburton Hospital.

Wendy curated a life dedicated to community service, passion for nature, and a love of creativity. Wendy took advantage of the opportunities provided by the Haliburton School Art + Design, filling her days and her home with wonderful creations. If you were looking for her, you would probably find her immersed in her garden or quietly volunteering for one of the many service clubs and cultural organizations in the community.

Wendy is the daughter of Ernest Taylor Wilkins and Dorothy (Babe) Cope Thompson. She is survived by her three children, Lorry Brandon (Ted), Warren Perry (Kerrie), and Sheldon Perry (Anne), and her grandchildren: Samantha, Benjamin, Matthew, Connor, Daniel, and Hannah.

A private service will be held for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Doctors Without Borders, an organization Wendy felt strongly about, or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

600 FUNERAL SERVICES

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The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association Annual General Meeting
When: Saturday, May 24 at 9:30 am
Where: 719 Mountain Street, Haliburton, Ontario
We'll recap a great season and elect a new Board of Directors. Everyone is welcome. For further info email info@hcsa.ca

Veggie Seedling Swap & Giveaway
When: Sunday May 25 at 10 a.m.
Where: Minden Fairgrounds Community Gardens
The Haliburton County Master Gardeners invite you to bring any unused vegetable seedlings to swap or simply take what you want free from our assortment. Donations to the Food Bank are welcomed. A demonstration of interest to gardeners will be held too

Threads of Connection - A Textile Arts Network Gathering
When: May 29th at 1 p.m.
Where: West Guilford Community Centre
Calling all textile artists, crafters, and creatives - whether you're a seasoned pro or just exploring the world of textiles, this gathering is for you! What to expect: Meet and mingle with local textile makers, share your work and learn from others, exchange ideas, resources, and inspiration. Bring a friend, your enthusiasm, and some work to do! Let's stitch something beautiful - together. For more details visit www.haliburtonarts.on.ca

Learn to Garden for Kids
When: June 3, 4 - 5 p.m.
Kids aged 6 years or older who want to learn about gardening are welcome to join the Horticultural Society Youth Members Program. Email for details: minden.jr.hort.club@gmail.com

Peonies
When: June 3, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St., Minden.
Do you love to garden? Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre. Guest speaker Ingrid Janssen will be discussing 'Peonies', followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Ontario Seniors Games Association Summer Games - Golf Tournament
When : June 11 or June 18 (rain date) at 9.30 a.m.
Where : Blairhampton Golf Club
18 holes - $ 65 including cart, lunch and prizes. Membership fee in OSGA ($15) and District 11 fee ($10.00) required. Further information, call Jere Pike, Golf Convenor at 705 489-4838

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room.
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street

Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

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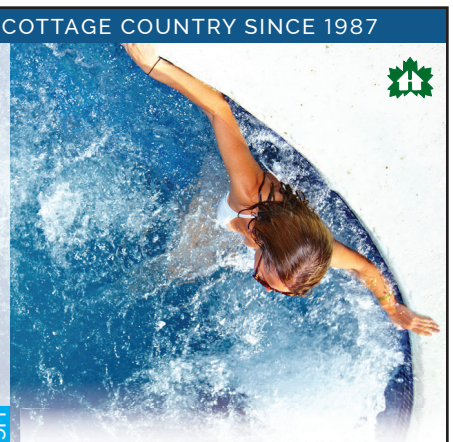

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Minden diamond will sparkle

Highlights

Kayak racers

Hard work has paid off for the committee promoting this summer's World Cup whitewater races in Minden. They will be getting national media coverage.
Please see page 2.

Roads

The update of the needs study for Haliburton County roads was presented to council last week. Funding cutbacks are paving the way to bumpy roads.
Please see page 7.

Hurdler

HHSS Hurdler Darren Warburton shattered all records at the COSSA track meet last Thursday in Napanee. And, just to make sure, he did it twice.
Please see page 10.

My Mom

"My mom baits her own hooks" that's why she is the best mom, says one of the kids who entered the BIA Mothers Day contest.
Please see page 12.

So long

The Minden BIA has won the fight to push Derwyn Barry's chip truck out of the village core. Minden council refused to renew the license.
Please see page 12.

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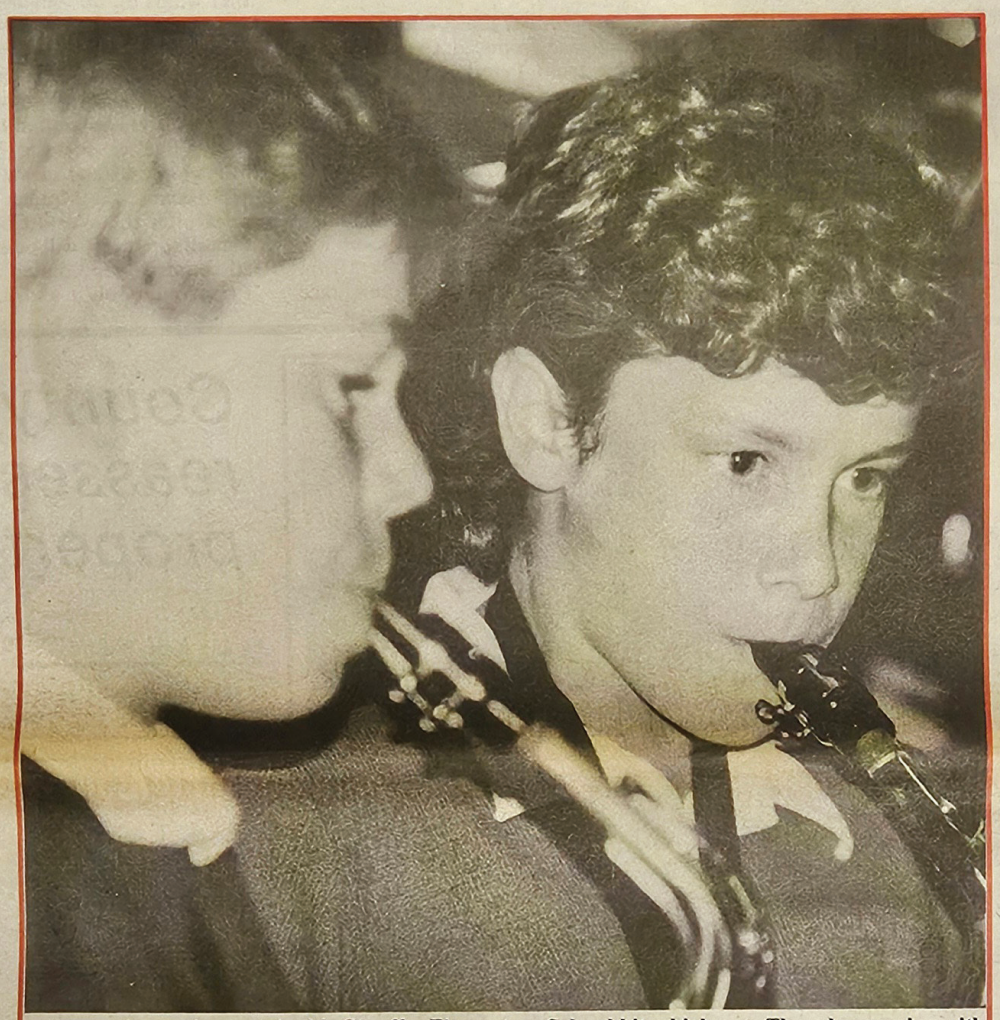
TV listings are included in This Week in the highlands for the summer.



The senior students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School hit a high note Thursday evening with their annual music night. The concert provided an opportunity for the students, individually and in groups, to demonstrate the musical talents acquired during the past year. Concentration shows in the faces of grade eight band members Corby Kent, left, and Danny Garbutt, indicative of the effort made by all performers.

Council okays Minden Park

The first phase of the Minden Township Park plan will get underway this summer now that both provincial and municipal funding are in place.

While commenting on the new municipal budget last week, Reeve Ray Moore noted that council will be transferring the required $78,173 from the parks reserve fund for use on this project.

Two weeks ago council received word that a provincial grant for the project had been approved. At that time, though, it was not clear whether the municipality would be able to come up with the matching funds required to receive the grant.

The project is being funded equally by the municipality and the province and is expected to cost almost $160,000. It involves the creation of a new ball diamond, a playground, washrooms, a parking area and tree planting. The Minden Township Park Plan was updated in 1987 and Parks Manager Ivan Ingram submitted the grant application a year ago.

Ingram says he was surprised that the Ministry of Tourism approved the grant this year. He said that when he had not heard by the end of April, he figured the application had been turned down.

The new ball diamond will be built next to the present lower diamond behind the arena and curling club. The creation of the new ball diamond is expected to account for about half the cost of this phase of the park plan. It includes a backstop and fencing, lights and electrical, sod, magnetic bases, players benches and dugouts, three sets of bleachers and two scoreboards.

The children's playground, which will be located next to the two ball diamonds will be a metal or wood prefabricated unit and is expected to cost about $8,000.

The washroom facilities will be complete with showers. This 836-square-foot building will also include a storage area and control panels for the lighting at the ball diamonds. This building is expected to cost more than $50,000.

A new parking lot will also be built as part of this project and there will be some tree planting done around the baseball fields.

The Minden Township Park masterplan has been in place since 1970 it was updated in 1978 and again in 1987 However, few of the recommendations have been implemented until now.

As another part of the park plan, the Parks Department has cleared the underbrush in the area east of the ball diamond, where 70 campsites will be located.

The second phase of this project is expected to be more costly than the first It involves the creation of recreational trails in the southern half of the park.

Snowdon taxes will rise 17%

Snowdon Township residents are being slapped with a 17 per cent increase in their property taxes this year as a result of the new budget approved by council on May 15.

The overall tax hike is the result of a 29 per cent increase in the municipal levy, a 16.9 per cent increase in the education levy and a 4.6 per cent increase in the county levy.

The largest increase is in the roads budget, which is going up by $23,473 this year for a 20 per cent increase. High percentage increases are seen in the budgets for fire protection (75 per cent) and environment (162 per cent).

The budget for general government is going up by three per cent.

Excluding the county and education levies, the municipality will be raising $97,973 through taxation this year. That's an increase of 29.2 per cent over the previous year.

Part of this hike is due to a roll back in the funding from the province, says township clerk Ernie Hills. Last year the province covered more than 53 per cent of the municipal budget and this year it's down to 48.15 per cent. This roll back forced the municipality to increase its revenue from taxation.

Minden taxes jump 12.5 per cent. see page 11.

The increase in the budget for environmental services stems from the need to control access to the dumps. This is a directive from the Ministry of the Environment, which threatened to close the dumps if the township couldn't put a stop to all the fires.

The increase in costs is based on estimates to fence and provide manpower at the dumps. Other major costs in this area are for the creation of a recycling program to enhance the lifespan of the dumps.

The increased cost for fire protection is the result of a new agreement with Anson, Hindon and Minden Townships fire department that calls for an extra $4,500 for the fire protection standby fee.

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